

Inside this
Issue of
THE OREDIGGER



**iPhone To Hit
Market Soon**
p. 10



**Spring Break
in Costa Rica**
p. 11

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THE OREDIGGER

Volume 87, Issue 8

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THE VOICE OF THE COLORADO SCHOOL OF MINES, A SUPERIOR EDUCATION IN APPLIED SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

World News in Brief

The 90's rock group **Rage Against the Machine** is set to reunite to headline the **Coachella Music Festival** on April 29th. They will be joined by the **Red Hot Chili Peppers**, **Bjork** and many others in the **California desert**. This will mark the first time all four members of **Rage against the Machine** have shared a stage since 2000.

The jury selection process has ended in the trial of **Cheney's former Chief of Staff, Scooter Libby**, who was brought up on five felony charges related to **obstruction of justice and perjury**. This all stemmed from an investigation into the leaking of former ambassador **Joseph Wilson's Wife's name** to reporters.

Simultaneous bombing ripped through predominately **Shi'ite areas in Baghdad** leaving **78 dead and 150 wounded**. While the **US death toll in Iraq** stands at over three thousand, estimates of **Iraqi casualties** range from the tens to hundreds of thousands.

Bringing Down The Hall

Former JeffCo. Courthouse Closed Ahead Of Schedule



Courtesy Hilary Brown/Oredigger

The Hall of Justice has served to house the **EPICS** and music departments as well as several classes and the language center.

Hilary Brown
Features Editor

The doors to the Hall of Justice have been locked for the last time. In late 2006, the Colorado School of Mines decided to permanently close the building after a leak appeared in the roof.

The leak prompted officials to reevaluate the use of the building. "Since the *2005 Campus Facilities Master Plan* called for the building's future demolition, the additional expense of significant maintenance work could not be justified," said Paul Leef, Campus Architect.

CSM submitted a \$6.3 million state-funded capital request for the demolition of the Hall of Justice. It will come up for approval before July 1, 2007. Demolition will begin in the fall if it is approved by the legislature and the Governor. The Colorado Commission on Higher Education recommended the project.

Preparations for the demolition could begin as soon as the funding is granted. "The fireproofing material containing asbestos in the building would be abated prior to building demolition," said Leef. After completing

the preparations, the Hall of Justice would be demolished.

The new building would be academically focused, according to the 2005 Campus Facilities Master Plan. Preliminary planning meetings are expected to begin during the spring. "Outcomes of this planning effort will be to determine programmatic needs, the size of the future building and its cost, funding sources, and schedule for completion," said Leef.

The Hall of Justice was built in 1966 as the county courthouse. It has been a part of the campus since the early 1990s. Beginning in 1997, CSM entered into a temporary use agreement with the State of Colorado concerning the structure. The agreement limited use of the building to the first two floors and basement.

Several departments were displaced in this recent decision to close the Hall of Justice. The EPICS department is now located in the Engineering Hall Annex. The Music Department now resides in the former Credit Union (19th St and Illinois) and in Bunker Auditorium. Other classes that formerly met in the Hall of Justice have been moved to other buildings on campus.

Dems In Denver

Sara Post
Copy Editor

On January 11th, Democratic National Committee chairman Howard Dean announced that the 2008 Democratic National Convention would be held in Denver, Colorado. "There is no question that the West is important to the future of the Democratic Party," Dean said in a prepared statement.

Denver has held one other National Convention. In 1908 the Democrats

nominated William Jennings Bryant for the third time. It was in the newly completed Denver Arena Auditorium that Bryant gave his famous "Cross of Gold" speech. That convention brought Denver to national attention, and many hope that the DNC of 2008 will have a similar effect on the entire West.

"The way we've approached this is to look at this as not just a convention for Denver or Colorado, but for the Rocky Mountain West," said Denver mayor John Hickenlooper. "We've

been working with governors of neighboring states to locate resources and companies that want to support a convention that showcases the West, showcases our ability to solve problems and come together."

"We're really, really excited here in Colorado to have the DNC meeting in 2008," said Patt Watt, chairwoman of the Colorado Democratic Party, in an interview with the *Oredigger*. "Not only will it give us a chance to showcase the state, but also to reinforce that the West is the place to come in politics. We have a growing population that's really concerned about things, like water rights and the environment, that are not necessarily

on the agenda in the East. From our standpoint this is an opportunity for us to tell the Western story to the rest of the country and also to nominate the next president of the United States."

The DNC Hispanic Caucus is also enthusiastic about the potential political advantages to having the convention in an area with a large Hispanic population.

"By coming to Denver for the convention, and selecting Nevada to hold one of the first presidential nominating contests, the DNC and chairman Howard Dean are proving a real commitment to having the His-

See CONVENTION, Page 2

More Troops In Iraq To Start New Year

Katie Kocman
Staff Writer

"The new strategy I outline tonight will change America's course in Iraq and help us succeed in the fight against terror."

President Bush believes that his new plan will "change America's course in Iraq, and help us succeed in

the fight against terror." During his speech he stated that "the situation in Iraq is unacceptable to the American people, and it is unacceptable to me. Our troops in Iraq have fought bravely. They have done everything we have asked them to do. Where mistakes have been made, the responsibility rests with me."

The troop increase will be a multi-

stage operation. Two brigades will arrive immediately, and the other three will wait to be deployed, depending on what happens in the field.

"In keeping with the recommendations of the Iraq Study Group," Bush said. "We will increase the embedding of American advisers in Iraqi Army units — and partner a Coalition brigade with every Iraqi Army

division." The majority of these two brigades will go to Baghdad. They will be embedded in groups of four to six hundred in nine military districts in the city.

"Our troops will have a well-defined mission: to help Iraqis clear and secure neighborhoods, to help them

See DEPLOYMENT, Page 2

NEWS 2

FEATURES 6

RECSPORTS 11

CLUBS 3

EDITORIALS 8

MINER'S NOTES 12

SPORTS 4

ENTERTAINMENT 10

Bottom Line Gets A Boost

State Increase Passes; National Measure Pending

Jason Fish
News Editor

For the first time in 10 years, the Colorado minimum wage has been increased. Businesses statewide are now required to pay employees at least \$6.85 an hour, raised from the

standard \$5.15 rate. Tipped employees also received a hike in their pay, going from \$2.13 to \$3.83 per hour.

The increase went into effect on the first of the year after passing on the state ballot as Amendment 42 in the November, 2006 general election.

Nationally, a similar measure was proposed by the Democratic party to

raise the Federal minimum wage. It was defeated by the Senate in June, 2006, but is back in the legislature today.

The most recent act was entered onto the ballot by Congressman George Miller (D.-Calif.) and passed in the House of Representatives by a margin of 315-116.

The proposition, if passed, would raise the national minimum wage from \$5.15 to \$7.25 per hour in three increments over the next 26 months. Figures from the Economic Policy Institute estimate over 14.8 million workers will be affected across the country.

Having passed in the House, the bill must meet the approval of the Senate and, finally, the President. Bush has said that he may sign the bill into law if Congress adds tax and regulatory concessions for small businesses to the measure.

The Senate Finance Committee

held a hearing on some of these proposed tax incentives January 10th. As of Monday, there has been no word on Senate or Presidential approval of the bill.

Colorado was not the only state to increase minimum wages in the 2006 elections. Arizona, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, and Ohio voted for a raise as well. On Colorado's ballot, the vote was 3.3% above an even split, while in several of the other states, over two-thirds selected an increase.

Deployment Amid More Attacks

Continued from Page 1

protect the local population, and to help ensure that the Iraqi forces left behind are capable of providing the security that Baghdad needs," Bush affirmed.

Four thousand more troops will go to Anbar Province in the west, which has become a base of operations for al-Qaida terrorists. Over a billion dollars will also be spent in economic aid and an additional \$5.6 billion will be used

to fund the troop increase.

"This new strategy will not yield an immediate end to suicide bombings, assassinations, or IED attacks," Bush cautioned.

More than 3,000 American military personnel have lost their lives to the war in Iraq. Iraqi and U.S. troops may find themselves fighting the militia of Moqtada Sadr, radical Shia cleric, which is the largest and most powerful of the Shia groups. However, the Mehdi militia currently

protects many Shia neighborhoods from Sunni insurgents, and, to date, Prime Minister Nouri Maliki has not confronted Sadr due to Sadr's political influence in the Iraqi congress. Now, Bush said, "the Iraqi government will appoint a military commander and two deputy commanders for their capitol. The Iraqi government will deploy Iraqi Army and National Police brigades across Baghdad's nine districts. When these forces are fully deployed, there will be 18 Iraqi Army and Na-

tional Police brigades committed to this effort — along with local police. These Iraqi forces will operate from local police stations — conducting patrols, setting up checkpoints, and going door-to-door to gain the trust of Baghdad residents."

Bush also said that he and his advisers "carefully considered" the Iraq Study Group's suggestions to scale back, but "we concluded that to step back now would force a collapse of the Iraqi government, tear

that country apart, and result in mass killings on an unimaginable scale. Such a scenario would result in our troops being forced to stay in Iraq even longer, and confront an enemy that is even more lethal. If we increase our support at this crucial moment, and help the Iraqis break the current cycle of violence, we can hasten the day our troops begin coming home."

Gov. Ritter Gives First SOS

Andrew Aschenbrenner
Staff Writer

The first two weeks in office have been busy for Bill Ritter, Colorado's new governor. Following his swearing-in on January 9, he has met with committees, finalized his Cabinet picks, met with county and state officials regarding continued blizzard relief in southeastern Colorado, and even gone on a whistle-stop train tour of the Front Range with Lieutenant Governor Barbara O'Brien. Headlining all this activity was Ritter's first State of the State address on January 11th.

In his speech, Ritter highlighted seven main points as part of his "Colorado Promise," including a "New Energy Economy," education, transportation, and health care. He identified the Colorado Promise as: "The promise of a brighter tomorrow, a new direction." Calling all Coloradans "great leaders," he expressed confidence that partnerships and communication with all levels of

government could be reached.

Noting that he had campaigned for almost two years and visited all 64 counties, Ritter said that there was a common desire for problem-solving. He promised to always listen, and told those assembled that his district "stretches from Springfield to Cortez and Dinosaur to Julesburg, and includes every community in between."

Before sharing his goals for legislation, Ritter announced that he would apply one "litmus test" to every bill coming to his desk: "How does this create a better future for our children and our children's children?" He also encouraged creativity in order to accomplish goals within fiscal limitations.

Ritter spoke first about the New Energy Economy, "our calling card to the 21st century." While acknowledging that fossil fuels will still play a large part in the energy economy, he expressed a desire for Colorado to become a renewable energy leader. He expressed anticipation to see other

bills that would advance the use of renewable energy, and announced the creation of the Governor's Excellence in Renewable Energy Award, which would recognize people, businesses, institutions, and non-profits who work in the renewable energy field.

Next, Ritter spoke about health care, noting that 770,000 Coloradans, including 180,000 children, lack health insurance. He called the fact that many businesses can't afford to offer health insurance "unacceptable," and expressed a vision to "establish a Colorado Health Plan that provides every Coloradan with access to some basic form of health insurance and health care by 2010." He also said that he would use an executive order to join a multi-state drug-purchasing pool, prompting House Republican leader Mike May to comment that the overstepping of the legislature would be "a scary

See STATE, Page 3

Convention Set In Colo. Capitol

Continued from Page 1

panic community at the table."

Colorado Republicans do not seem worried about the prospect of a massive Democratic influx. Some are expressing optimism about the economic benefits of the event, which is expected to bring between \$150 and \$200 million to the Denver area. Others, such as State Representative Bill Cadman, R-Colorado Springs, expect that the convention will bring Colorado voters to the booths in favor of the GOP. "I can't think of anything more motivating for Republicans to go out and vote than watching Howard Dean and Hillary Clinton in [Denver]," he said.

"I think, what [this] really says, is that the Democrats are running candidates who are authentic, who are honest, who are listening to the people of the state, and who are running on the issues that they *care* about," Watt told The Oredigger when asked about the affect of recent elections on the state's political stage and the decision of the DNC to hold the convention in Denver.

"That has really made a significant difference and it has been the policy of the state Democratic Party for the past two years to make sure we have the best candidates running. [They're] the right candidates talking about the right issues."

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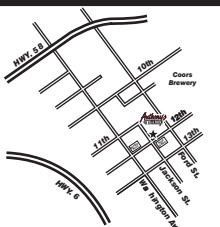
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Astronomy Club

Ever watch the sky? Come join the Astronomy Club and learn basic astronomy! Our meetings are Thursday at 7:00 pm. Contact Mark Gefreh at mgefreh@mines.edu

CRU

Campus Crusade for Christ. Thurs. @ 7 in Student Center Ballroom C. Everyone welcome.

Circle K

Circle K is a volunteer org. helping people. Got tons of projects, just need you! Contact jrisner@mines.edu.

Dance Team

Interested in dancing? Offers both beginning and advanced classes in: jazz, lyrical, hip hop, and tap. Times & directions, for info contact hbrown@mines.edu.

FCA

Fellowship of Christian Athletes. Wed. meets at 7:30 Student Center Ballrooms D&E. All welcome. jwells@mines.edu.

ISEE

International Society of Explosives Engineers. Contact jgresham@mines.edu. 6pm, 3rd monday of each month, exact date and location TBA (email for details). We have monthly meetings with speakers from many different industries. All students are welcome to attend meetings, www.mines.edu/academics/mining/csm_isee

Karate Club

Meets every Monday and Wednesday Night, from 6:30 to 7:00 pm in the gym wrestling room. All levels of experience, from beginner to advanced, are welcome! For more information, contact Jason Dardano at ddardano@mines.edu.

Kendo Club

Where: Field House
When: Wednesday, January 25, 2005 8:00 P.M. – 10:00 P.M.
Anyone who is interested should attend; we will provide all the information necessary. Practice is open to all skill levels, no experience necessary. A great opportunity to exercise, improve coordination, and have fun.

MSEC

Materials Science and Engineering Club meets Friday in HH 202 at noon. Lunch is provided for members, and guest lecturers will be speaking. All majors invited to join. jeperkin@mines.edu.

Newman Group

Catholic Newman Group. Meets every Monday at 7pm in the Ted Adams Room of the Green Center for faith based discussion and community. ccooper@mines.edu for more info.

ORC

Outdoor Rec. Center. Recreation, equipment and lessons. Visit ORC next to C3 store in Mines Park. Hours: Mon. Wed. and Fri. from 10-6, Tues. and Thurs. from 12-6. 303-273-3184

PreMed Society

We meet the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of every month at 5 pm in HH211. Contact wsvoboda@mines.edu.

SCA

Students for Creative Anachronism. Fencing meets Thurs. 7-9 in the Field House. Belly & court dance Tues. 7-9 in SC. dhoberec@mines.edu.

Sigma Lambda

1st and 3rd Tuesdays of Every Month in Library Boethcher Room. EVERYONE WELCOME: gay, bisexual, transgendered & allies. sigmalambda@mines.edu.

Sober Drivers

Need a ride home on Fri. or Sat. night between 9 pm & 3 am? Kappa Sigma Sober Driver Program 303-279-9951. Must be within 15 min. of campus.

SWE

Society of Women Engineers. Hear from speakers in industry, universities etc. on topics affecting women & students at Mines. Weds. 12 CO 209 jnekuda@mines.edu.

Ski Team

Looking to continue racing in a relaxed fun environment or just an excuse to go skiing more? Join Ski Team! Email croe@mines.edu for info.

State Of The State Address Ritter Focuses on Colorado Promise

Continued from Page 2

beginning on the health care front.”

The Governor briefly mentioned transportation, saying that “something as simple as a well-paved road or a four-lane highway can be a big economic development tool in places like La Junta and Lamar.” He called improving the transportation system “key to our overall economic development strategy.”

In the largest part of his speech, Governor Ritter highlighted education, saying that “the best economic development tool is a well-educated workforce.” Noting that “less than half of the black, Latino, and American Indian students who start high school in Colorado actually finish,”

he set a goal to cut the drop-out rate in half within 10 years. He also made clear that higher education “is vital to rural Colorado,” and called for “colleges and universities to double the production of technical certificates and college degrees over the next 10 years.”

Ritter also set goals in public safety, saying that prison costs “are spiraling out of control and eating into our ability to fund education and health care.” He targeted prison recidivism as the biggest problem, saying that a main way to control prison costs would be to develop “programs that allow inmates to successfully re-enter society.”

Finally, Ritter announced the creation of the Colorado “Government Efficiency and Management Perfor-

mance Review.” He described it as a tool to “put [state employees’ ideas] into action.” He said that “it’s our turn to keep the Colorado Promise,” and concluded with a hope that progress would be made and problems would be solved.

Leading Democrats praised the speech, with Senate President Joan Fitz-Gerald calling it “inspirational.” Leading Republicans expressed some concern, including Senate minority leader Andy McElhany, who called Ritter’s goals “laudable” but complained that he “didn’t hear a lot of specifics about how we get there or how we pay for them.” In the GOP response, state GOP chairman Bob Martinez even called the address a “campaign speech.”

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Bears, Colts Dance in Super Bowl Shuffle



Courtesy Sports illustrated

Colts' lineman Jeff Saturday pounces on Dominic Rhodes' fumble on the one yard line to score a TD in the Colts' record setting fourth quarter comeback Sunday

Spotlight Brightens on Manning and Grossman

Andrew Aschenbrenner
Staff Reporter

The Chicago Bears brought the George S. Halas trophy home, winning the NFC Championship at cold and snowy Soldier Field over the New Orleans Saints. They return to the Super Bowl stage for the first time since winning Super Bowl XX in 1986. They will be joined on February 4 in Miami by the Indianapolis Colts, who won the AFC Championship to reach the big game for the first time since moving from Baltimore.

Chicago won in classic Bears fashion, using a steady running game and a pounding, turnover-inducing defense to dominate the Saints 39-14. The Colts' comeback was a conference championship record, led by Peyton Manning. The defense held off play-off-savvy Tom Brady, allowing the team to post a 38-34 win.

With both teams posting such dramatic victories, this year's Super Bowl is sure to be chock full of excitement. To try and gauge each team, there are five categories that need to be analyzed.

1. Bears offense vs. Colts defense. The Bears, quarterbacked by the widely criticized Rex Grossman, will have a challenge against a Colts defense that has recently found itself after giving up 173 yards rushing per game during the regular season. Indianapolis defenders repeatedly jumped routes against New England, so expect the Bears to try to counter with crisp passing. Rex Grossman must be on his toes against an Indianapolis secondary that was rated second in the NFL. The Bears must have a successful passing game to succeed on offense. Combined with a Bears offensive line that successfully parted the statistically better New Orleans

run defense and the rushing tandem of Thomas Jones and Cedric Benson, the Bears should be able to gain yards on a fast but vulnerable Colts defense. This battle will be won on the ground, giving the edge to Grossman and the Bears offense.

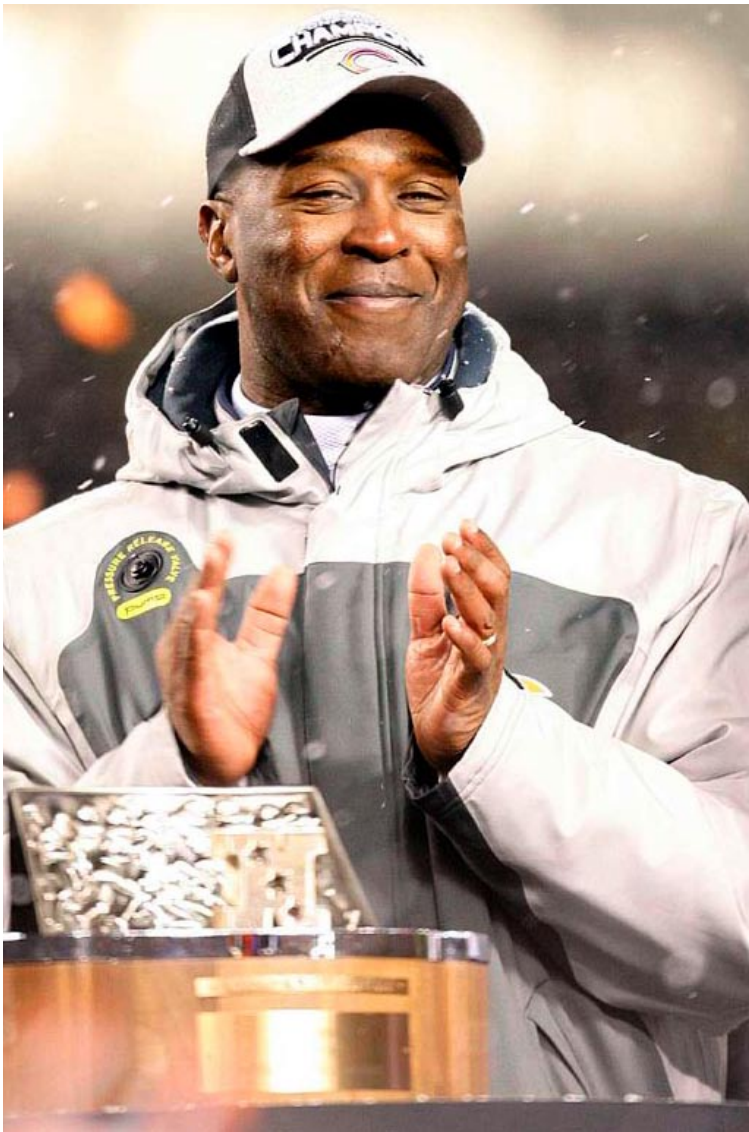
2. Colts offense vs. Bears defense. Everyone knows about the deft passing and leadership of Peyton Manning. At times, the secondary of the Bears appears full of holes, but this is largely because the Bears' brand of zone coverage lacks strong safety Mike Brown, who has been out for the season. Man coverage looks much better for the Bears. Joseph Addai and Dominic Rhodes may have trouble finding holes against the swarming Bears defense, but the Bears have struggled against receivers like Marvin Harrison, with the same defense getting shredded in last year's playoffs by Steve Smith. The Bears pass defense was ranked 11th against the pass in the regular season, just ahead of 12th-ranked New England, which gave up 349 yards through the air to Manning and the Colts. Overall, the Colts running game will have some trouble, but Manning should connect on some big plays in the air, giving the edge to the Colts offense.

3. Special teams. The Bears' return man and TD-return record holder Devin Hester, who made six touchdown returns during the regular season, is a special teams coach's worst nightmare. The Colts counter with Terrence Wilkins, who is a decent return man but lacks Hester's explosiveness. Turning to kickers, the Bears' Robbie Gould has been solid this season, setting a team record by converting his first 26 field goal attempts this season and finishing 32 of 36. Gould also made the winning 49-yard field goal in overtime to beat

the Seattle Seahawks in the divisional round. The Colts however have one of the most famous kickers in NFL playoff history in Adam Vinatieri. Vinatieri has been an excellent clutch kicker, with three winning field goals in the playoffs (two in Super Bowls) to his credit. With the game in Miami the weather figures to be warm, and barring any rain, the kicking battle should be a draw. Any rain, however, and Hester's explosiveness could be neutralized and the edge would go to Vinatieri and the Colts.

4. Coaching. The Bears' Lovie Smith and the Colts' Tony Dungy share the title of being the first African-American head coaches to coach in the Super Bowl. They worked together in Tampa, with Smith coaching linebackers under Dungy. Smith also worked as defensive coordinator in St. Louis, where he helped the Rams reach Super Bowl XXXVI. Both coaches have a defensive background, and Smith is noted for bringing the Tampa Cover-2 scheme to Chicago. Both coaches should be familiar with each other's defensive coverage. This battle will most likely come out to favor Smith's explosive defense.

5. Intangibles. Getting Manning and the Colts' famed offense out of the dome and into the outdoor Dolphins Stadium in Miami should help the Bears, who were 7-1 on the road during the season. The two-week break will favor the Colts, who did not have the bye week like the Bears. Rex Grossman's confidence will play a huge factor, and Smith and the rest of the Bears' coaching staff would be wise to put his preparation as the top priority for the Bears. The distractions of Super Bowl week may hurt the Bears, one of the youngest teams in the NFL, and Grossman has only 24 regular season games and three



Courtesy Sports illustrated

Chicago Bears' coach Lovie Smith became the first African-American to go on to the Super Bowl with the Bears' 39-14 win Sunday.

playoff games to his name. Manning undoubtedly wants to silence critics by winning it all, but the Bears are also eager to finish out their quest for a title. Emotion should be high on both sides, but the Colts may get lost in finally beating the Patriots when it counts. In the most even battle of all, the Bears get the edge, owning seven NFL Championships and one Super Bowl as a franchise.

After weighing all these parts, it's obvious that this year's Super Bowl

will be one for the ages. Manning will be on his game, but so will Grossman. The Bears will out-rush the Colts and control the clock. This combined with the big play nature of their defense definitely gives the edge to the Bears to become this year's Super Bowl Champions.

Pick: Chicago 38, Colts 27

Oredigger Track and Field Runs Amok

School of Mines Opens Up Indoor Season With Joe Davies Open



McDaris Leads Orediggers to Victory, Captures National Qualifying Time

Courtesy CSM Athletics

The Colorado School of Mines track and field team opened up the 2007 indoor season this afternoon with its annual Joe Davies Open. Both the men’s and women’s teams finished third behind Adams State and Western State. On the men’s side, Adams won the meet with 236 points followed by Western (147.5), CSM (81.5) and Metro (9). Adams State’s women also won the meet with

175 points, while Western was second with 171 points, CSM in third with 72 and Metro in fourth with 17. Mines had three individual winners, along with provisional qualifying times. Larry McDaris led the Orediggers with both a win and a national qualifying time in the men’s mile run. His time of 4:18.26 is a national qualifying time. Also winning his event with

a qualifying time was Matt Walsh. Walsh’s time of 1:54.77 gave him a three second win over CSM’s Mark Husted in the men’s 800 meters.. 2006 women’s mile national runner-up Heather Beresford ran to a first place finish in the women’s 800 meters with a time of 2:18.97. Mines will return to action on January 27th at the Air Force Academy.

Lewis Inducted into Wrestling Hall of Fame

Courtesy CSM Athletics

Colorado School of Mines Associate Director of Athletics and former Head Wrestling Coach Dan Lewis has been selected as an inductee into the USA California Wrestling Hall of Fame. The induction will take place May 19 at the Holiday Inn, Laguna Hills, California. Lewis began his wrestling career at Fountain Valley High School and captured the California Interscholastic Federation Championship in 1971 as he posted a 30-0 record with 23 pins. He also placed third at the High School Nationals contested at Oklahoma State. He then spent two seasons at Orange Coast Community College where he was a two-time All-American and posted 42 falls before moving onto Cal State-Fullerton for his final two collegiate seasons. At Cal State-Fullerton, Lewis was named the team Most Outstanding Wrestler in 1975 and 1976 when he captured conference titles at 177 pounds. He also qualified for the NCAA Championships in 1977. In 1976, Lewis was 17-0-1 in duals. He left the program with a school-record

30 career pins and an overall record of 67-6-1 in two seasons. Lewis’ coaching career began at LSU where he was an assistant coach from 1980-82. He then served as the head coach at Cal State-Fullerton for the next 10 seasons and placed in the NCAA top-25 in 1990 and 1991. In 1991, Lewis guided seven wrestlers who qualified for the NCAA Championships. Cal State Fullerton was one of only 14 teams to do so that year. His 1991 team finished with a 13-8 record and knocked off Oklahoma among many other top ranked teams. Lewis then moved on to Colorado School of Mines where he was the head coach from 1992-2002. During that time, he coached four NCAA II National Champions, 10 All-Americans and was named the 1996 NCAA II Coach of the Year after leading the Orediggers to a seventh place finish at the national championships. He coached three All-Americans and two national champions that season. Four of Lewis’ teams at CSM captured the National Wrestling Coaches Association All-Academic Team Championship. Those came in 1994-95, 1995-96, 1997-98 and 1998-99.

Men’s B-Ball Drops to Colo. Christian; Fall to 8-8

Courtesy CSM Athletics

Colorado Christian’s Brian Stamer tallied a double-double with 18 points and 10 rebounds to lead the Cougars to a 67-51 win over Colorado School of Mines in Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference action Saturday night at Cougar Fieldhouse. CCU (6-9, 3-6 RMAC) led 23-17 at halftime and pushed the lead to as many as 13 points in the second half. CSM was able to cut the lead to six

points with just under five minutes to play, but would get no closer. CSM sophomore guard Kyle Pape scored a game-high 21 points, while senior forward Davey Iverson added seven markers. Justin Neuhaus totaled 15 points and eight boards to aid Stamer, while Jordan Long registered 12 points. CSM (8-8, 3-6 RMAC) will return to action Tuesday night when it hosts Johnson & Wales at 7:00 pm in Volk Gym.



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...John Tallerday, Junior

Geek of the Week

Hilary Brown
Features Editor

John Tallerday is majoring in Environmental Engineering, but he still finds time to unicycle, memorize pi, and play classic video games.

Q. What is your favorite activity or sport?

Probably distance running. I do cross-county, indoor and outdoor track for Mines.

Q. What's the geekiest thing you've ever done?

I don't know if I can narrow it down.

Q. What's the geekiest thing you've seen at Mines?

Athletes, including me, racing to solve Rubik's Cubes in the van on the way to track meets. And discussing Rubik's Cube algorithms.

Q. Can you solve a Rubik's Cube?

[Nods]. Yeah, I can solve many sizes, from the big 5-by-5 cubes all the way down to the mini-cubes.

Q. Your thoughts on "the ratio"...

It's only weird when I go to functions outside of Mines. I've gotten so used to it that it makes the rest of society seem a bit strange.

Q. What's your best geek joke?

Why did the engineer get Hal-loween and Christmas mixed up?

Q. Why?

Because OCT31 is equal to DEC25.

Q. What's your favorite IM acronym?

I'm great at wasting time on the internet without using instant messenger.

Q. What is the coolest thing in science? Ever.

The infinite nature of space.

Q. What is your most hated math "thing"?

In Calc I or Calc II, we had to do series and sequences, specifically Taylor and Maclaurin. I never liked those very much.

Q. Rumor has it that you unicycle, is it true?

I started unicycling last year. I randomly decided to buy one and take it up. It gets to be fun after you learn enough.

Q. Do you like video games?

I like the classic ones, like NES and Atari—Super Mario, Duck Hunt, Tetris II, Pong, Asteroids, etc. I can get through Super Mario Brothers, the original, without losing one life. I guess it proves I don't have a life.

Q. Can you recite pi?

3.141592653589793238462643383279502884197169399375

Q. What are your post-college plans?

Probably more school. I haven't planned too much of the future, not even next week.

Would you like to nominate a friend for Geek of the Week?

Email oredig@mines.edu

Battle of the Next-Gen Operating Systems

Windows Vista

Apple OS X

Ubuntu Linux



	Windows Vista Ultimate	OS X Leopard (10.5)	Ubuntu 6.10 Desktop Edition
Retail Price	\$399.00	\$129.00	Free
Upgrade Price	\$259.00	\$129.00	Free
Previous Version	Windows XP Professional	OS X Tiger (10.4)	Ubuntu 6.06 LTS
Supported Processors	1 GHz 32-bit or 64-bit Intel/AMD	PowerPC G4, G5, or Intel Core	Intel x86, AMD64, UltraSPARC T1, PowerPC
Minimum RAM	1 GB	256 MB for PowerPC, 512 MB for Intel	256 MB
Minimum Graphics Memory	128 MB	Any Current Graphics Card	Most Graphics Cards
Minimum Hard Drive	15 GB Free	6 GB Free	3 GB Free
Based On	Windows NT	UNIX	UNIX

Coming Soon!

Oredigger Poetry Corner

Send submissions to oredig@mines.edu

Is There a Difference Between Geeks and Nerds?

Joel Longtine
Guest Reporter

Many Mines students have borne the brunt of a nerd or geek joke. It's likely that they have ad hoc definitions that they use for instances when they hear the terms. But what do these words really mean? And how are they different?

According to Merriam-Webster, a "nerd" is "an unattractive, inept person; especially one slavishly devoted to intellectual or academic pursuits <computer nerds>." A "geek" is "a person often of an intellectual bent who is disliked" or "an enthusiast or expert especially in a technological field or activity."

The American Heritage Dictionary has similar definitions. But do these definitions adequately reflect the societal connotations of the terms?

Perhaps the internet would be a good place to turn for these definitions. Unfortunately, the Urban Dictionary and Wikipedia.org are replete with differing definitions.

On Wikipedia, the meaning of "geek" is disputed factually, and the definition of "nerd" contains original research and unverified claims. As the definition section of "geek" says,

"The definition of geek has changed considerably over time, and there is no definite meaning. The social and rather derogatory connotations of the word make it particularly difficult to define. The difference between the terms 'geek' and 'nerd' is widely disputed..."

The Urban Dictionary vacillates nearly as much. In fact, the top definition for nerd from the Urban Dictionary is "one whose IQ exceeds his weight." The second is "an individual persecuted for his superior skills or intellect, most often by people who fear and envy him," which seems to be similar to the definition for geek given by Merriam-Webster. Yet more evidence for the fact that these terms are hard to separate from one another.

So, what can be gleaned from this morass of indecision? Any self-respecting geek/nerd would want a concrete definition on which to base their understanding of the use of those terms. Unfortunately, it seems that there is not much clarity to be found in the world of definitions.

Where will an adequate answer be found? Send the Oredigger your personal definition at oredig@mines.edu. In the end, however, perhaps all the geeks and nerds can find some comfort - at least you're not a dork!

	3D Styled GUI?	Live Window Tiling?	Live Ghosted Backups?	Microsoft Office Distrobution?	Multiple User Desktops?	OS Integrated Widgets?	Live Indexing and Search?	Full 64-Bit Support?	Dual-Core Task Distribution?	Integrated Multimedia Management?	Video Chat Ability?	Virtual Meeting Support?
Leopard	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Vista	X	X	X	X		X	X	X		X	X	X
Ubuntu			X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	

THE OREDIGGER

Editorials

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The Apple Phenomenon

Zach Aman
 Editorials Editor

In 1984, Apple Computer, Inc. launched the first personal computer that utilized a graphical user interface. In 1993, they unveiled the first personal digital assistant. In 2001, Apple uncovered the first 3D-styled graphical user interface with Mac OS

X, and, in the same year, revealed the iPod digital music player that dominates over 80% of American market share today. In 2003, Apple integrated the iTunes Music Store into the iPod dynasty. In 2007, Apple showcased the iPhone – a smart phone that conquers music, video, photography, e-mail,

web surfing, SMS text messaging, and more.

Put simply, Apple has been the technological leader of the past thirty years and they're only getting stronger. Apple's OS now offers a complete version of Microsoft Office with a renewal due in 2008. Apple's creative professional applications continue to raise industry benchmarks. Apple's iLife multimedia suite – composed of GarageBand, iTunes, iMovie, iDVD, and iPhoto – is beyond any other alternative in the business.

At the end of the day, Apple's competitive pricing and continual commitment to excellence leave it alone among the other contenders. Any questions?



Learning to Love Linux

Erich Hoover
 Guest Columnist

With the rash of new operating system releases, it is an opportune time to discuss the advantages of switching to a GNU/Linux operating system. Linux provides all the features of a commercial operating system with the best price-tag ever: free. By the power of an army of paid and volunteer programmers, a very powerful operating system has been created. This operating system has the ability to perform all of the computing tasks necessary for a large percentage of users, without buying a Windows Vista license fee (\$129 to \$499) or a system with Mac OS X. Linux has an excellent web browser with Mozilla Firefox, a great web client in Mozilla Thunder-

bird, and the powerful office suite OpenOffice.org. While many Linux distributions default with other software, the default configuration is usually more than enough for many users. However, there still remains the "final frontier" of Linux software – video games. Linux has a variety of free games, but most people are interested in playing the commercial games they've already purchased. Through the gallant efforts of the Wine Project, Windows games, such as World of Warcraft, can be played on Intel processors – though you should check the website before assuming that your game will run. Plus, if you ever need any help, the local Linux User Group will likely help you out free of charge.



Why Choose Windows?

Chris Phillips
 Assistant Business Manager

Windows offers some major advantages over Mac OS and Linux. These advantages (especially for the average user) are highlighted by compatibility and familiarity. Windows still offers the largest program selection and it is growing daily. Apple doomed itself in the beginning when it refused to allow software developers to learn how to program for their OS. The Linux folks have worked to have an OS that can be compatible with many Windows programs, but this com-

patibility has not reached 100% (and it may never do so).

The other advantage is familiarity. Many people use Windows in one of its forms, and Vista will make changes to the look of the OS without changing drastically the actual operation. People are slow to change; incorporating many of the familiar aspects that have been around since Windows 95 has proven an effective strategy for Microsoft – so much so that other OS developers have adopted similar features.



Courtesy Wikipedia

Duffy's Corner

Kevin Duffy
Staff Columnist

The CSM Department of Public Safety has often been described in myth and storytelling. The real facts and questions, covered up by a lack of information and communication between the dedicated officers of CSM and the students they serve. The question of who the Mines Police Officers are and what exactly their authority entails will remain a mystery no longer.

Much to the surprise of those whom thought they were just security guards, Mines police officers are the real deal. Community Relations Officer, Brett Stanley, had this to say when asked about the authority of Mines Police, "...police officers working for CSM are fully certified level 1 Peace Officers and have the same authority as any police officer in the State of Colorado." This statement was further backed up by Officer Ryan Custer of the Golden City Police Department who commented on the "positive working relationship" between CSM and Golden Police forces. The neatly constructed web of authority, however, becomes muddled in a dark cloud when one throws in the University and its relationship to the State and the Police force.

If CSM Police are State Officers, understandably they can issue citations throughout the City of Golden. Yet when an of-

ficer pulls an individual over who is a Mines student, he has more choices and options than if that person is a simple resident. He can choose at his discretion whether to issue a legal citation or a CSM fine that will be applied to that student's account. It is easy to see the gray area. CSM police Officers are not only carry respect and authority within the state, but with in the school as well. Where does all the money go for those off-campus fines? The "Public Safety Charge." The school collects the money and will hold it against you until you pay up.

Over-zealous policing is a recognized problem nation-wide. In short, police agencies benefit from more arrests because it increases their productivity and gives reason for an increased budget the next year. Consider it this way: if a police station never arrested or ticketed anyone throughout the year, city, and government officials would be hard pressed to okay a large budget for possibly superfluous equipment and missions. Considering the reality that CSM and Golden are not full of would-be rival gangs and rioting crazies (like CU has to offer), we need to continually ask ourselves the important question: are the CSM Police Officers just doing their duty or are they intruding upon your freedoms? Please send Duffy your local concerns: kduffy@mines.edu.

Demanding Accountability

When the Constituency Is Left Behind...

Zach Aman
Editorials Editor

"Fool me once...shame...on you; fool me twice...shame...on...you can't be fooled again."

While President Bush grew up in New Haven, he has evidently been profoundly affected by his seemingly endless time in Crawford, TX.

Early this January, Bush announced a plan to temporarily increase troop levels in Iraq. Just one month prior, the Iraq Study Group - a bipartisan commission of leading political and judicial figures - issued a report encompassing all aspects of the war. Moreover, the group identified key areas of interest and specific recommendations for US foreign policy.

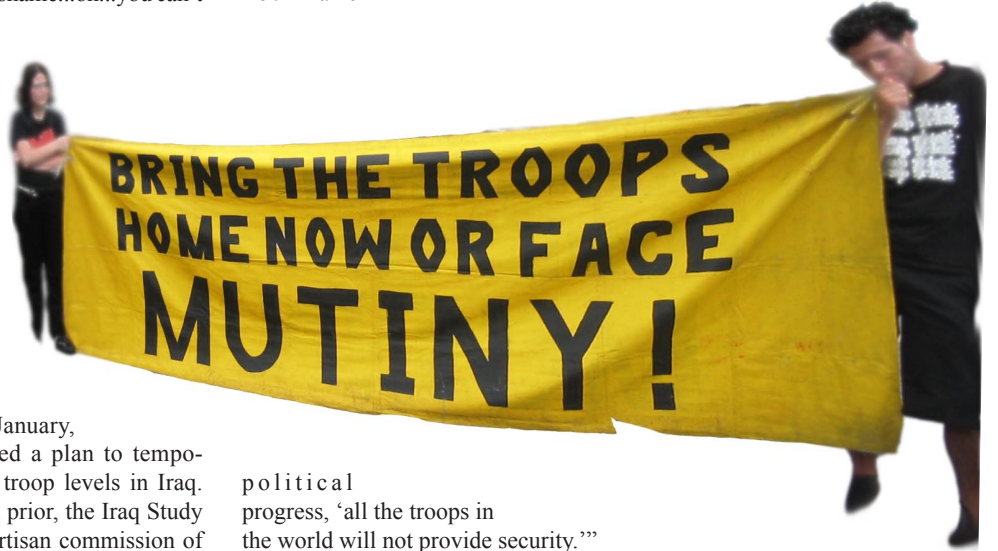
On the subject of increasing troop size, the study group issued the following statement:

"Sustained increases in U.S. troop levels would not solve the fundamental cause of violence in Iraq, which is the absence of national reconciliation. Past experience indicates that the vio-

lence would simply rekindle as soon as U.S. forces are moved to another area. As another American general told us, if the Iraqi government does not make

neo-Conservatives.

Considering the conclusions of the Iraq Study Group and the acknowledged lack



political progress, 'all the troops in the world will not provide security.'"

It should be no surprise that the majority of America no longer supports the war or the President. An AP-AOL News poll recently found that only 44 percent of Americans believe the President is honest whilst a full two-thirds of the respondents feel that the nation is on the "wrong track."

At this juncture, it would behoove the President to seriously weigh the interests of his constituency. No longer does he enjoy post-9/11 political unity or the blind faith of the Christian

of support from the American public, it is inconceivably asinine for the President to proceed with this plan.

Bush's obstinance is no longer admirable; it has degraded American foreign policy to a point of disgust amongst the world community while simultaneously shattering bipartisan unity within American politics.

More than ever, this President must be held accountable for his words, accountable for his behavior, and accountable for his failures.

What's Your Beef With Mines?

ASCSM President Answers Your Questions



Request: We shouldn't have school on Statutory Holidays.

Response: The state recognizes 10 national holidays and allows all state employees to take these 10 days off from work as paid holidays. These days include Labor Day, Veteran's Day, Columbus Day, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, President's Day, July 4th, Memorial Day, Christmas, the New Year, and Thanksgiving. Technically we do get all 10 of these days off, but they don't coincide with the actual date of that holiday. The state also requires that a student must have at least 750 contact minutes per credit hour (a 3 credit class requires 2250 minutes or 45 class times).

As state employees, our fac-

ulty and staff are allowed only 10 days off from work throughout the year. One of the statutory holidays is on the day after Thanksgiving, so we can have that long weekend. A more recent ruling took four of those holidays (President's Day, Labor Day, Columbus Day, and Veterans Day) and moved them from their proper date to put them in between Christmas and New Years. This allows the faculty and staff to have a week long vacation during the winter holidays. During this time the faculty are encouraged to get research grants and even earn money from other institutions. It also allows for the entire school to be shut down, which therefore saves the cost of energy. Addi-

tionally, this ruling has allowed our winter break to be extended an extra week. Without those holidays lumped together at the end of December, our break would only be two and a half weeks.

We are essentially allowed to move our holidays around anywhere we desire as long as we meet contact minute requirements and leave enough time for there to be a summer session and two field sessions. If the students so desire, we could have Labor Day in the Fall or MLK Day in the Spring, but we would need to start classes a day earlier or end a day later.

-Casey Morse
ASCSM President

Laboring on Labor Day

Lily Giddings
Staff Columnist

If there were a list for high quality schools that allow students time off, the Colorado School of Mines would not make the list. Students must attend class even on national holidays, or days when the snow is so high that you need snowshoes to get across campus. Even the days off that the school honors are condensed when compared to other institutions.

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology gives students frequent and extended breaks during the year: they even observed 2 days of Columbus Day, a holiday that did not even register on the Mines radar. And the MIT students are not even back in session yet, classes start on February 6th.

Are Mines students less deserving of a break than the hardworking students of MIT? Classes are equally hard, and homework is as grueling, if not more! Why, then, does the Mines administration not build in more breaks for students during the year? Surely they recognize the strict standards that students strive to meet, and that the efforts should be rewarded occasionally with time to catch up on sleep, instead of homework.

There is no one on campus that could not use an extra day to relax and just enjoy life. So much of our time is devoted to lamenting our fate: the excessive quantities of CAPA, chemistry labs that are behind schedule, and the common-hour exams that take time from homework. It would be nice to be able to relax once in a while, if only to honor a lame holiday like Patriot's day.

As the old saying goes, "all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy" so cut us some slack, CSM!

THE REVOLUTION WILL BE TELEVISED



Introducing the iPhone

Next Generation Sensors: Ambient Light Sensor (optimizes screen for surrounding light), Proximity Sensor (automatically deactivates the touch screen when phone is placed near your hear), Accelerometer (detects device rotation and flips the screen horizontal or vertical to compensate)

Lightning Fast Connectivity: WiFi (802.11 b,g), EDGE, Bluetooth 2.0, Quad-Band GSM

Breathtaking Multimedia: 2.0 Megapixel Camera, 160 Pixel-Per-Inch Screen, 3.5 Inches Viewable Area, Widescreen Movie/Television Player, Full Widescreen iPod with CoverFlow Album Artwork, High Definition Photo Management with Touchscreen Zooming and Rotation

Cutting Edge Technology: Apple's OS X Operating System, 4GB or 8GB Storage, Full Internet Integration Featuring Full Flash and Java Support, Free Push E-mail from Yahoo, Google Maps Right in the Home Menu, Widgets, Random Access Voicemail

Technical Specifications: Up to 5 hours of talk/video/web browsing battery and up to 16 hours of audio playback battery. Dimensions: 4.5 x 2.4 x .46 inches. Weight: 4.8 ounces. On sale at Apple (online and physical stores) and Cingular (online and physical stores) as of June 2007. 4GB model will cost \$499 and 8 GB model will cost \$599. Works with Macintosh and Windows Operating Systems. More information at apple.com/iphone.

Arriving Shortly

Chase Hoffman
Asst. Editor-in-Chief

January 26th

Smokin' Aces
Universal Pictures
Action
Rated R

Starring: Jeremy Piven, Ryan Reynolds, Ray Liotta
Directed by Joe Carnahan
Summary: Several hitmen have been contracted for one hit with a bounty of a million bucks. Now it's a race to see who can put a bullet or two into a strung-out snitch.
Impression: Think of this like a porno, but instead of sex, it's action and violence. Not a lot of plot to be had here. If you make your way to see this, make sure you know why.

Epic Movie
20th Century Fox
Comedy
Rated PG-13

Starring: Kal Penn, Adam Campbell, Jennifer Coolidge, Fred Willard
Directed by Jason Friedberg, Aaron Seltzer
Summary: The plot isn't important, I swear.
Impression: This film is written by

the same two writers of *Date Movie*. In case you did not see that film, it was horrible, like mutated dog vomit. Stay clear and away from this movie.

February 2nd

The Messengers
Columbia Pictures
Horror
Rated PG-13

Starring: Kristen Stewart, Dylan McDermott, Penelope Ann Miller
Directed by Oxide Pang Chun
Summary: A sunflower farm in North Dakota has become prey to a mysterious darkness that is causing suspicion, murder, and mayhem. The only people that can predict these occurrences are children who are supposedly able to sense darkness far better than adults.
Impression: The 'danger' in this plot is a little formulaic, but this idea of children sensing evil is a new twist. The tricky part is that it's hard to decipher how much of a role this will play into the overall scheme of the movie. If you're in the mood for something unexpected, this should be right up your alley.

A film geek writes about geeks on film.

Jen Schneider
Columnist

My (Hypothetical) Students' Pick:
V for Vendetta (2005)

Yeah, yeah. So this movie has been out for a while. And it got pretty well panned by a number of critics. And it's been buried in my Netflix queue for a long time, while other, more compelling films got pushed to the top. It even sat on top of our t.v. for weeks, while I tried to work up the interest to pop it in the DVD player. Truth be told, I expected to be really bored by this movie.
Because the poop was this: the Wachowski brothers, the writers and producers behind *V* and, of course, the *Matrix* trilogy, were sort of losing it. There was some fight with the author of the book upon which *V* was based, and Larry Wachowski got involved with a dominatrix and disappeared and is potentially becoming a woman, and *Matrix* superfans were let down by the *Matrix* sequels (I mean, what can top the coolness that was bullet-time technology?). We were left feeling like the people who are still hoping Guns N' Roses will get back together, only to be thwarted by the weirdness that is Axl Rose.
Anyway, it turns out that all of my hesitation and hemming and hawing was for nought, because I really got into the movie. *V* is a borderline propagandistic critique of the perils of fascism, which in this film looks a lot like neo-conservatism.

It is set in a futuristic Britain, a totalitarian state fueled by fear and paranoia. A young woman named Evey (Natalie Portman) gets caught up with a mysterious masked man, "V," who through some brilliant "strategy" manages to stage a revolution against the country's dictator.
Some reviews said that the writing was poor: I didn't find it so. In fact, I thought it was a smart movie. The Wachowskis are skilled at maintaining multiple plotlines, flashbacks and flash-forwards, and they always have something interesting to say about the current state of affairs. The anti-fascist message in this film was not well veiled, but it didn't need to be. Sometimes it works just to name things what they are.
Furthermore, I appreciated the Wachowskis moving away from the *Matrix* formulae to a different artistic vision. The film intentionally mimics the look and feel of a graphic novel (it is based on one), and though it doesn't do it as well as, say, *Sin City* (also released in 2005), it is still a stylistically consistent and exciting film.
What I liked best about this movie was the not-so-subtle message: freedom may mean chaos and danger, but far more dangerous is the supposed security of totalitarianism. Sound familiar? It's a theme the brothers explore frequently. I'm glad this one finally made its way through the queue, and I hope it's not the last we see of the weird and wonderful Wachowskis.

My Pick: *Bound* (1996)

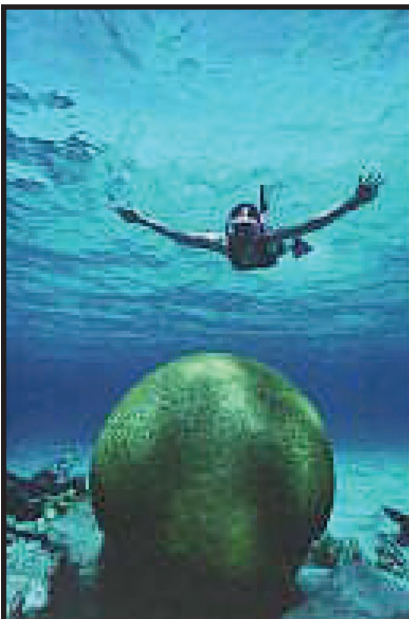
If you liked the *Matrix* movies and *V*, that doesn't necessarily mean you'll like their debut project, *Bound*. But it might.
In the documentary that depicts the making of the *Matrix* trilogy (the *Matrixes?*), the Wachowskis explain that they were trying to secure studio funding to get the movies made. None of the studios, of course, were willing to sink funding into three fairly expensive movies being offered by novice writer-directors, so the Brothers decided to make a smaller movie first, to prove their mettle.
The result was *Bound*, a gangster movie starring two lesbian protagonists (played by Gina Gershon and Jennifer Tilly). In sum, it's a bit of a cross between *Reservoir Dogs* and *The Usual Suspects*, but with women as the bad-asses who get away with all the swindles and double-crosses. There's plenty of the typical Wachowski uber-violence, but it's got their vision and smarts, too.
In fact, the only unfortunate thing about this movie is that Gina Gershon has been unfortunately typecast forevermore, sentenced to always play the hammed-up butch lesbian (don't believe me? See the foul, foul 2003 movie *Prey for Rock & Roll*). Everything else about *Bound* works, and Warner Brothers agreed, allowing the Wachowskis to make the *Matrix*. Check it out while you're waiting for their next project.

ORC Breaks in Spring for Costa Rica

Konrad Klett
Asst. Sports Editor

The Costa Rica Rainforest Outward Bound School (CRROBS) has teamed up with CSM for a fun-filled trip south of the border. From March 10th to 17th, you'll be able to enjoy hiking, rafting, sea kayaking, snorkeling, climbing and rappelling through rivers and lush rainforests, and swimming or surfing on the incredible beaches (or just sit on your bum and tan). All of which, except for the loaf-

ing, will include instruction from professionals. Students will spend an evening with a Costa Rican family in their home and learn much of their culture and day to day life. The registration deadline is January 31. The trip costs \$850, excluding airfare, and will begin and end at San Jose International Airport. For more information, go to <http://www.crrobs.org/custom/groups/colorado/index.shtml>



Pictures of the adventures in Costa Rica
Photos courtesy of the Outdoor Recreation Center



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Number Theory

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years

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634%

Increase in the number of autistic children being treated by the California Department of Development Services ¹

3000 Mega-watt-hours a year

Estimated amount of power saved world wide if Google changed to a black background ²

< 50\$

Price of barrel of oil, lowest since May 2005 ²

Potent Quota-babbles



“You know all the surveys say that evangelicals have the best sex life of any other group.”

- Ted Haggard, disgraced former president of the National Association of Evangelicals, now famous for his somewhat unorthodox sex life.

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1. <http://www.slate.com/id/2157496/>
2. <http://ecoiron.blogspot.com/2007/01/black-google-would-save-3000-megawatts>.

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